

# City of Newburgh

## Press Release

---

83 Broadway, Newburgh, N.Y. 12550  
(845) 569-7354 – (845) 569-7370

for immediate release  
*November 22, 2011*

### ***City of Newburgh Celebrates Lights On Afterschool Programs***

On Wednesday, October 19, 2011, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Program had the chance to embark upon the challenge of hosting this year's Lights On Afterschool Program for the City of Newburgh. The event was held in the Kaplan room of SUNY Orange, Newburgh Campus, which housed a couple hundred local residents who came to show their support. The program included a tremendous line-up of individuals that work tirelessly within our community to ensure a safe place that is conducive for learning for all children.



**Moleek Logan spoke about what after school programs mean to him**

The Lights On Afterschool Program is a national event (spearheaded by the Afterschool Alliance) dedicated to raising the awareness of afterschool programs and advocating for more afterschool investments. This event is supported by the U.S. Congress, governors, mayors, and advocates across the country to communicate the impact of afterschool programs on children, families, and communities, and as well as to help ensure that all children have access to affordable quality afterschool programs.



Karen Mejia, the Deputy District Representative for Maurice Hinchey, was one of the guest speakers who addressed the efforts of the Afterschool Alliance and the Lights On Afterschool Program. She charged the listeners with the task of doing a self reflection of their own community involvement to ensure that we all are making a conscious effort to

give back to our communities. Mindy Ross, Vice President of S.U.N.Y. Orange, Newburgh Campus, was also a guest speaker. She addressed the crowd with the importance and efficacy of after school programs from the perspective of growing up as a “latch key” kid. Mayor Nicholas Valentine read a proclamation dedicating the day as “Lights On Afterschool Day”.

“The Lights On Afterschool Program was a perfect vehicle for bringing together other organizations within the community that share a common goal in helping to educate our children and families,” said Joy Pittman, Youth Bureau Director. “A few that shared in helping to make the program a success were: Glenn E. Hines Boys and Girls Club of Newburgh, Center of Hope, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County, ETA (education Through Adventure), S.U.N.Y. Orange, and the Newburgh Enlarged City School District. Each of these organizations did a superb job in educating the guests about the importance of afterschool programs and keeping them engaged throughout the evening with hands on activities.”